HANDBOOK OF RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Volume I
1948 - 1972

1st to 25th World Health Assemblies

1st to 50th sessions of the Executive Board

This cumulative edition of the Handbook, *which covers the first twenty-five World Health Assemblies and the first fifty sessions of the Executive Board, constitutes a definitive Volume I.*

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
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1.9 NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Limitation of Smoking

EB45.R9 The Executive Board,

Welcoming the resolutions on the control of cigarette-smoking passed by the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization/Regional Committee for the Americas and the Regional Committee for Europe at their sessions held in 1969;

Recognizing that the individual must decide for himself whether he will risk endangering his health by smoking cigarettes, but should also have regard to the influence on others of his example; and

Believing that no organization devoted to the promotion of health can be neutral in this matter,

1. REQUESTS those attending its meetings to refrain from smoking in the room where such meetings are held; and

2. REQUESTS the Director-General to report to the Twenty-third World Health Assembly on measures which might be taken to affirm the Organization's view of the hazards of smoking and to demonstrate this by example at WHO meetings as well as to ensure that the Organization is able to assist Member States and interested health organizations to obtain information on these hazards.

Jan. 1970 181,7

WHA23.32 The Twenty-third World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General;

Recalling the resolutions on this subject adopted by the Executive Board, the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization/Regional Committee for the Americas, and the Regional Committee for Europe;

Conscious of the serious effects of smoking in promoting the development of pulmonary and cardiac disease, including bronchopulmonary cancer, chronic bronchitis, emphysema and ischaemic heart disease;

Being aware that bronchopulmonary cancer is at present increasing in all countries of the world where records are available in a form which permits assessment;

Holding that health agencies must now demonstrate their concern for the reduction of the main causal factor in diseases related to smoking; and

Considering that smoking of tobacco during meetings may constitute a nuisance to non-smokers,

RESOLVES that:

(1) all those present at meetings of the Assembly and its committees be requested to refrain from smoking in the rooms where such meetings are held;

(2) the Director-General be requested:

(*a*) to consider the desirability of making the subject for World Health Day "The health consequences of smoking," on the earliest possible occasion;

(*b*) to call the attention of all Members and Associate Members to the report on limitation of smoking and to suggest that the advantages of applying the recommendations on pages 19 and 20 of that report[1] should be considered in all countries;

(*c*) to consider convening an expert group to recommend further action that might be taken to discourage smoking;

(*d*) to examine to what extent and by what educational methods young people might be persuaded not to begin smoking;

(*e*) to bring to the attention of FAO the need for studying crop substitution in tobacco-producing countries;

(*f*) to report to the Executive Board at its forty-seventh session and to the Twenty-fourth World Health Assembly on the action proposed and the financial consequences for the Organization.

May 1970 184,15

EB47.R42 The Executive Board

1. THANKS the Director-General for his further report on the health consequences of smoking;

2. BELIEVES that a sustained effort by health and education authorities is needed to change the deeply ingrained habit of smoking in modern society and to prevent its extension, especially among young people; and

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue to assemble information on the effects of smoking and the results of action taken to reduce the habit;

(2) to seek the assistance of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in promoting the social change required and in studying the economic consequences, actual and anticipated, of this change;

(3) to transmit the two reports he has prepared and resolution WHA23.32 to these agencies;

(4) to report further to the World Health Assembly.

Jan. 1971 189,24

WHA24.48 The Twenty-fourth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General;

Recalling the resolutions on this subject adopted by the Twenty-third World Health Assembly, the Executive Board,[2] and the respective Regional Committees;

Recognizing the relationship between smoking and the development of pulmonary and cardiac disease, including lung cancer, ischaemic heart disease, chronic bronchitis and emphysema; and

Believing that a sustained effort by health and education authorities and others is needed to reduce tobacco smoking and to prevent the extension of the habit, with special attention to young people and pregnant women,

1. THANKS the Director-General for his report;

2. ENDORSES the recommendations contained therein;

3. CALLS UPON all Member States and Associate Members to give all possible consideration to putting these recommendations into effect; and

[1] See *WHO Chronicle*, 24, 365.

[2] Resolutions EB45.R9, WHA23.32 and EB47.R42 above

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4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(i) to continue to assemble information on the health effects of tobacco smoking and the action being taken by countries to reduce the habit;

(ii) to place emphasis on the control and prevention of smoking as an integral part of operating programmes as and when feasible;

(iii) to continue in co-operation with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the appropriate non-governmental organizations to foster a greater awareness of the health hazards of smoking and to take whatever action is deemed necessary to reduce them, and particularly to draw the attention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the necessity of undertaking a study on crop diversification in tobacco-growing areas in view of the expected decrease in tobacco consumption;

(iv) to stimulate the strengthening of health education activities, including the production, dissemination and exchange of educational materials to discourage the habit of smoking; and

(v) to produce a code of practice that can guide governments in the formulation of legislative action relevant to the health consequences of smoking.

May 1971 193,25

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

WHA22.29 The Twenty-second World Health Assembly,

Recognizing that most of the world's blindness is preventable and that much of it is curable;

Noting the programmes on communicable eye diseases, especially trachoma and onchocerciasis, conducted by WHO, and the efforts which are being made by various governments to control these and other causes of blindness, including injuries and vitamin A deficiencies;

Noting also the increased activity in this field by non-governmental organizations concerned with blindness and its prevention and the recommendation of these organizations that there is need for the compilation and evaluation of more systematic information, clearer identification of practical objectives, and improved machinery for international co-ordination,

REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to undertake a study on the information which is at present available on the extent and all the causes of preventable and curable blindness and to propose activities in this field which the Organization would carry out within its programme of work; and

(2) to collaborate, as may be required, with other organizations having an interest in this domain, including certain non-governmental organizations in relation with WHO.

July 1969 176,12

WHA25.55 The Twenty-fifth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolution WHA22.29 on the prevention of blindness adopted by the Twenty-second World Health Assembly;

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the prevention of blindness;

Being aware of the complexity of the problem and of the relatively limited information available on blindness and its causes throughout the world; and

Noting with interest the activities already undertaken by WHO in this field as well as the provision made for a study group on the prevention of blindness to be convened in 1972,

1. NOTES the report of the Director-General with appreciation;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to endeavour to obtain additional data on visual impairment and blindness and their prevention with special emphasis on the situation in developing countries, keeping in mind the need for a generally accepted definition of blindness and visual impairment;

(2) to promote further studies on the most efficient and economical means of preventing blindness, such studies to be carried out on an interdisciplinary basis in collaboration with other organizations active in this field;

(3) to assist Member States in educational programmes related to blindness and visual impairment, including those for the development of ophthalmological departments in medical schools;

(4) to intensify technical assistance to national programmes for the prevention of visual impairment and blindness, particularly in programmes against trachoma, onchocerciasis and xerophthalmia.

May 1972 201,28

1.9.1 CANCER

See also Health Statistics, resolution WHA2.38, sub-paragraphs (1) (c) and (5), page 171, resolutions EB4.R10, sub-paragraph (3), and WHA3.6, paragraph 4, page 172; and, under Coordination and External Relations, International Encouragement of Research into Cancer Control, pages 504-506.

1. General Programme

[WHA1.5] The First World Health Assembly gave number six priority to the study of cancer and entrusted it to the section on health statistics.

July 1948 13,310

EB17.R40 The Executive Board,

Recognizing the benefit to Members that may result from the creation of registry centres of pathologic tissues to serve internationally,

REQUESTS the Director-General to explore the possibility of WHO's organizing centres in several places in the world which would arrange for collection of human tissues and for their histopathological examination.

Jan. 1956 68,14

WHA10.18 The Tenth World Health Assembly,

Aware that cancer is a source of untold suffering to thousands of people, that it casts a shadow over many a home, and that its

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